



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

August 29, 2005

## **FEDERAL INDICTMENT UNSEALED AGAINST 30 IN “OPERATION RECLAIM” DRUG GANG CASE**

*-47 Guns recovered in one house-*

ATLANTA- David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia; Gregory Jones, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Kenneth A. Smith, Special Agent In Charge, Immigration & Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Vernon Keenan, Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Bill Shiflett, Chief, Floyd County Police Department; Robert S. Sparks, Sheriff, Polk County; and Billy Wills, Chief, Polk County Police Department, announced that a federal grand jury has returned an indictment today against 30 members and associates of a violent drug gang in a case code-named “Operation Reclaim.”

The indictment charges the 30 defendants listed below with conspiring to possess and possessing with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana. Twenty-seven of those defendants are also charged with being part of a racketeering conspiracy. The indictment alleges that between March 11, 2000, and the present date, the defendants conspired to distribute drugs and engage in racketeering activity under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute.

The indictment is part of an 18-month-long investigation, named Operation Reclaim, conducted by local, state and federal law enforcement officers focusing on drug and violent crime activity centered in Cedartown, Georgia, and spreading to Rome, Georgia and northeast Alabama. Combined federal and state prosecutions resulting from Operation Reclaim already include over 40 defendants, resulting in convictions stemming from the distribution of over 1,000 pounds of methamphetamine. Today’s unsealed indictment charges the following defendants:

- DANIEL VILLENAS-REYES, a/k/a “Oscar,” “Daniel Martinez,” and “Oscar Hernandez-Ruiz,” 34, of Cedartown;
- MARCO ANTONIO CORDERO, 30, of Cedartown;
- SAMMY DUQUE, 31, of Cedartown;
- MARICELLA MARTINEZ, a/k/a “Mary Martinez,” age unknown, of Cedartown;
- RICHARD GENE SHAW, a/k/a “Ricky Shaw,” 44, of Cedartown;
- MIGUEL GOICHOCHEA PEREZ, a/k/a “Jesus,” 22, of Cedartown;
- OSVALDO ANDRADE, 27, of Rome;
- JOSH SMITH, 24, of Silver Creek;

- SHANE ROSSER, a/k/a “Hawk,” 33, of Centre, Alabama;
- TIMOTHY STOUP, 39, of St. Petersburg, Florida;
- KATHY YORK, 44, of Cedartown;
- JUAN DUQUE, 29, of Cedartown;
- FELIPE CARMONA ROMERO, a/k/a “Ricardo Ramirez Chavez,” 42, of Cedartown;
- EDGAR BAUTISTA BECERRA, 27, of Cedartown;
- BRANDY KINES, 29, of Rome;
- MISTY MCCRAY, 24, of Jacksonville, Florida;
- STEPHEN LYNN BROWN, 30, of Cedartown;
- BILLY RAY LACKEY, 42, of Felton;
- JAMES REX WILSON, a/k/a “Racing Rex,” 46, of Cedartown;
- JOE JOHNSON, a/k/a “Magoo,” 31, of Cedartown;
- JAMES GARNER, 47, of Cedartown;
- TERRY EDWARD FOLSOM, 47, of Cedartown;
- LISA WEAVER, 46, of Cedartown;
- DANA CRIDER, 25, of Cedartown;
- LARRY WHEELER, 48, of Cedartown;
- CHRISTOPHER SORRELLS, 32, of Cedartown;
- RANDY THOMPSON, 30, of Cedartown;
- IVAN ANTONIO MOLINA, 42, of Cedartown;
- DAVID CARTER, 32, of Cedartown; and
- TIMOTHY WATSON, 32, of Cedartown

As of today, 27 defendants have been arrested on the federal indictment. 13 additional defendants are also in custody on state charges. All charges were made public at a news conference this afternoon that included representatives of the District Attorneys of Floyd and Polk Counties; the Floyd, Polk County and Cedartown Police Departments; and the Polk County Sheriff’s Department. The law enforcement agencies, along with ICE and GBI, participate in the “Northwest Georgia Criminal Enterprise Task Force,” a FBI Safe Streets Task Force. The United States Marshal’s Service also assisted in the arrests made today.

Forty-seven weapons were recovered at a single residence as part of the law enforcement action. Authorities said that at least two of the defendants are considered fugitives: OSVALDO ANDRADE, 27, of Rome, and EDGAR BAUTISTA BECERRA, 27, of Cedartown. Anyone with information on the defendants is asked to call their local police.

At the news conference, United States Attorney David Nahmias said, “The truly violent character of this gang is demonstrated by the fact that the racketeering charges are based on violent crimes including five murders, attempted murder, arson, kidnapping, and, extortion, as well as drug trafficking and transporting and harboring illegal aliens. The indictment also charges five of the defendants with murder in aid of racketeering and discharging a firearm during and in relation to those murders, six defendants with attempted murder in aid of racketeering, and 11 defendants with other gun crimes. The 5 murders for which members of this gang are indicted, all of which occurred in 2003, represent fully half of all the murders occurring in Floyd and Polk Counties that year.” Nahmias added, “The use of federal racketeering and drug statutes to attack the leadership of an organization is important, especially with an organization such as this that operates across local jurisdictional lines. It is particularly noteworthy that Operation Reclaim resulted from the coordinated efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.”

FBI Special Agent In Charge Greg Jones said of the case, "The impact of Operation Reclaim will surely be felt in this region which, unfortunately, has seen a substantial increase in methamphetamine trafficking and violent gang activities. The indictments of these individuals are the result of a long-term, sophisticated investigation involving the many varied law enforcement agencies of the region and their efforts are to be commended. Violent criminal organizations such as this will continue to be a priority for law enforcement."

ICE Special Agent In Charge Kenneth Smith said, "'The cooperation within this multijurisdictional task force has been excellent, resulting in the dismantling of an organization that has used violence to intimidate its competitors as well as its own members in order to carry out its illegal enterprise."

GBI Director Vernon Keenan noted, "This area of the state was experiencing violence related to drug trafficking. Through a coordinated effort and aggressive drug enforcement, we were able to solve several violent crimes, including homicides, and were successful in identifying major players in an organized drug ring. I am optimistic that more arrests and seizures will be made as a result of this ongoing investigation."

The indictment also contains a forfeiture provision seeking to seize properties, automobiles, and weapons allegedly involved in the drug and RICO conspiracies, including the property at 2087 Potash Road, Cedartown, Georgia, two Chevrolet Corvettes, and numerous firearms.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kim S. Dammers and William G. Traynor are prosecuting the case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*